

19 August 1967

Mr. John Watts, Editor
Manhattan East
185 East 85 Street
New York City 10028

Dear John,

Thanks for your letter of 18 August and the enclosures. Walter Lister of CBS claims that the failure to display the test bullets recovered in the CBS ballistics tests was neither deliberate nor sinister but merely an oversight. This assertion should be weighed in the light of the fact that I wrote to Lester Midgley of CBS on 30 June 1967 requesting detailed information on the CBS marksmanship and ballistics tests and in particular "photographs or detailed descriptions of the recovered test bullets." In a letter of 13 July 1967, CBS refused to provide any of the information I requested; the refusal was deliberate, considered, and explicit.

In a further letter to the President of CBS News, dated 3 July 1967, I challenged the CBS "News Inquiry" findings on the time-span of the shots and the blurred frames; the marksmanship test results; the wound penetration tests; the authenticity of the stretcher bullet; the nature and location of the wounds; and the false, self-contradictory statements made by police dispatcher Murray Jackson in his CBS interview. (I enclose a copy of this letter for your information.) This letter remains unanswered. Apparently CBS is unable to refute the facts or arguments adduced in this letter. By "refute" I mean, of course, by means of material evidence and not unsupported rhetoric and blustering pronouncements to be taken on faith.

The fact that Dr. Alfred G. Olivier "decided" for CBS, as earlier he had "decided" for the Warren Commission, that the single-missile theory was possible is utterly irrelevant, since even the partial results of the CBS ballistics tests showed that it was impossible to duplicate the feat ascribed to the stretcher bullet. Moreover, Dr. Olivier's opinions and conclusions in his Commission testimony were predicated on a description of Governor Connally's back wound as 1.2 inches in diameter—that is, twice the size of three-fifths of an inch in diameter described by Dr. Robert Shaw, who treated the Governor, in his Commission testimony. The size of the wound is pivotal in judging whether it was made by a pristine bullet, or by a yawing bullet which had first hit something else and produces a larger wound. I challenge Mr. Lister to refute these facts and inferences, explicitly, and not to take refuge in vague insinuations and irrelevant generalizations. It requires no expertise in wound ballistics to identify the logical absurdities, factual inaccuracies, or selectivity of the CBS presentation; in any case, it was CBS that solicited the opinions of Dr. Cyril H. Wecht as an authority in forensic pathology, which includes wound ballistics. It comes with poor grace that Lister now seeks to impugn Dr. Wecht's qualifications, because his expert opinion was not to his liking. This is on a par with Lister's implication that it was Manhattan East that attributed Dr. Wecht's remarks to Dr. Enos, when it was the CBS transcript that committed the error.

CBS carries its arbitrary withholding of data to incredible and almost comical lengths. For example, Dr. Wecht was refused a tape recording or transcript of the two-hour interview he had given CBS at its request when the "news inquiry" was in

preparation. Imagine denying a man a recording of his own interview! Dr. Wecht was so outraged by CBS's audacity in distorting and deforming the evidence that he wanted to publish a full transcript of his interview, from which a few fragments had judiciously been selected and included in the "news inquiry." CBS, for whom Mr. Lister claims such purity and honor, refused to give him the tape.

That these cornered charlatans take refuge in silence and the suppression of material data merely underlines and formalizes the bankruptcy of their position in support of the Warren Report, and their default as scholars, researchers, and honest men. One expects nothing better from these houseboys and trained poodles who have enlisted in the service of an infamous fraud.

Yours faithfully,

Sylvia Meagher

Enclosure: Letter to
President of CBS News